

App. No. 10/615,676
Office Action Dated March 17, 2006

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. The Specification, claim 1, and the drawings are hereby amended. Claims 14, 15, and 17-20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amendment of claim 1 is supported by the subject matter of claims 14 and 15. Amendments of Figures 1 and 12 are supported by page 9, line 36 to page 10, line 1, and page 16, lines 2-4.

The title is objected to for not being descriptive. The title is amended to address the concerns of the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration of the title is requested.

The drawings are objected to for not showing every feature in the claims. Figures 1 and 12 are amended to address the concerns of the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration of the drawings is requested.

Claims 1-5, 8-10, and 16 were rejected as being anticipated by Yoshida (US 6,201,228). Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of allowed claim 15, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to the rejected claims.

Claims 6, 7, 9, and 14 were rejected as being unpatentable over Yoshida in view of Ando '977 (US 6,392,977). Claims 6, 7, and 9 should be considered allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, from which they depend. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to the rejected claims.

Claims 11-13 were rejected as being unpatentable over Yoshida in view of Ando '720 (US 6,744,720). Applicants traverse this rejection. Claims 11-13 should be considered allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, from which they depend. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejection as applied to the rejected claims.

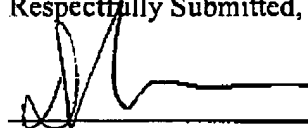
App. No. 10/615,676
Office Action Dated March 17, 2006

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Douglas P. Mueller, Reg. No. 30,300, at (612)455-3804.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: June 15, 2006




Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No.: 30,300
Hamre, Schumann, Mueller & Larson, P.C.
225 South Sixth Street
Suite 2650
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612.455.3800

DPM:mfe